

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the Creator gave us a paradise; and we, appropriating the power of nature's God, are turning our planet into a smoking, glowing, oily mess, through plundering Mother Earth of her treasures and through refusing to recognize the growing evidence that our reliance on oil, coal, and nuclear threatens our health, our security, our economy, our Nation and the world.

It is not as though there are no alternatives. Markets and industries have conspired for years to shelve the massive introduction of wind and solar technologies. Thousands of barrels of oil each day billow from the ocean floor, covering nearly 20 percent of the gulf, heading towards the Florida Keys and the Atlantic coast.

Must we wait until all coastal areas are ruined, all fish, all birds, all animals are injured and killed before we realize that drilling presents a threat to the fragile ecology of life?

We cannot afford to passively witness the destruction of our natural environment because written in the oily sands of the gulf is the degrading of all life on the planet. Our world exists through fragile interconnected systems of life. Our survival depends upon reconciliation with, not exploitation of, the natural world.

COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REFORM

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, under the leadership of this Congress, my colleagues and I are working non-stop to help Americans that have been struggling with unemployment, failing businesses, and falling home prices. One of our most important tools to ensure our country's recovery is fixing our banking system. Comprehensive regulation reform will protect American consumers and restore common-sense rules to help keep an American crisis like the one we faced this past year from happening again.

For too long, executives on Wall Street bent the rules and dodged the regulations. Basically, reforming Wall Street will mean a return to classic American values. If you work hard and play by the rules, you will be rewarded. We will quite simply put an end to taxpayer-funded bailouts.

I have often said it is hard to play a fair game without a referee on the field, and that is exactly what we are going to do now, is put a referee on Wall Street. I urge my colleagues to work for comprehensive financial reform.

DEVASTATING OIL SPILL

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, fishing has been barred from one-fifth of the Gulf of Mexico. That is 29 million acres off limits to the American citizens who rely upon the seafood industry to support their families. Globbs of oil called "tar balls" have landed in the Florida Keys, a warning of the threats to Florida's vibrant tourism industry. The consequences of this devastating oil spill will not be felt by Democrats or Republicans, but by all Americans, and for years to come.

The oil spill cleanup could cost more than \$14 billion; but today oil companies are required only to pay a measly \$75 million toward those damages. For that reason, it is outrageous to see legislation forcing BP to pay for this mess fail once again on partisan lines.

Most shops have a long-recognized policy: you break it; you buy it. The same should apply to oil companies.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join a bipartisan effort protecting taxpayers from a massive bailout of the oil industry. It is time to worry less about oil company profits and more about the American people.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, enough is enough. My constituents in Missouri have had enough excuses and delays from big banks and Wall Street. That is why my Democratic colleagues and I have been fighting for common-sense regulatory reform and consumer protections, holding big banks accountable for their actions and ensuring that the crash like we experienced in 2008 never happens again.

Wall Street reform, which has passed this House, implements protections for consumers so that big banks can no longer gamble with America's economy like it was their own private casino. Bailouts would be a thing of the past.

Before and since this recession, Republicans have repeatedly sided with big banks and Wall Street over consumers, stable community banks, and Main Street. Now is the time to hold big banks accountable, no more standing in the way. Now is the time for comprehensive financial regulatory reform with strong consumer protections. Enough is enough.

CHARTING NEW COURSE FOR ECONOMIC FUTURE

(Ms. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the American people today. They are some of the most resilient people in the world. But over the last 2 years, even the most optimistic individual has been fearful. Just 2 years ago, we were losing 727,000 jobs a month. The stock market dropped 3,000

points, making 401(k) plans look like 201(k)s, and we feared for the next generation, that they would have enough money to live on. But what a difference a year makes.

The Democratic Congress, working with the new Obama administration, has moved in a new direction, first of all by passing the Recovery Act. Instead of losing jobs, we have been gaining jobs. Since passing the Recovery Act, the stock market has risen dramatically, real estate is coming back, and home sales are coming back. When you look at the job growth, it is going up again.

These are the changes, and these are the differences that we can see that are facts and not fiction.

□ 1030

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, consumer financial protection is not a punishment to business. It is a level playing field so that consumers and businesses who want to transact a fair deal can do so. Consumer financial protection, which is in the financial reform bill, will allow consumers and lenders who want to do a fair deal to get rid of the fine print, the hidden fees, the tricky terms that landed our economy in such an awful condition.

We're climbing out. We're addressing the issues that affect the American people, and we're doing it now. The fact is that we want to see good lenders stay good; lenders who want to have clear terms, well disclosed, underwritten to make sure the consumers can pay that money back, and what we want to see in this economy. And people who want to have fine terms, funny terms, tricky terms or hidden fees will not be able to do that. Our economy will be better for it. It will be stable, transparent, and clear, and we will see continued economic growth in the American economy once we pass consumer financial protection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5325) to invest in